



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 7, 2002

S. 198
Noxious Weed Control Act of 2002

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 31, 2002*

SUMMARY

S. 198 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide grants to states and Indian tribes to support projects to control or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. CBO estimates that the proposed program would cost \$5 million in 2003 and \$190 million over the 2003-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 198 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs incurred by these governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 198 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	100	100	100	100	0
Estimated Outlays	5	20	35	60	70

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 198 would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million a year over the 2002-2006 period for the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to states and Indian tribes to fund projects to study, control, or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$5 million in 2003 and \$190 million over the 2003-2007 period, with additional spending occurring in later years. For this estimate, we assume S. 198 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2003. We also assume that no funds would be provided for 2002, but that other amounts would be provided as specified by the bill. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 198 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The assistance authorized by this bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments. Any costs incurred by these governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 7, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1462, the Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 24, 2002. H.R. 1462 would authorize the same amount of funding as S. 198 for a substantively similar program to control invasive weeds. Differences between our estimates of spending under each bill reflect a change in our assumption regarding when they would be enacted. Specifically, we estimated that implementing H.R. 1462 would cost \$45 million more than S. 198 over the 2003-2007 period because we assumed that H.R. 1462 would be enacted during fiscal year 2002 and that funding authorized for that year would be provided.

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